
A NEW SPECIES OF *VANTANEA* (HUMIRIACEAE) FROM PANAMA

Recently collected flowering material of the central Panamanian species of *Vantanea* hitherto considered conspecific with the Colombian *V. occidentalis* Cuatr. (Gentry, 1975; Croat, 1978) has forced a reconsideration of the taxonomic status of the Panamanian entity. It is here recognized as a new species, *V. depleta*, differing most importantly in stamen number and ovary pubescence from *V. occidentalis*, which it otherwise strongly resembles.

Of significance to the current generic concept of *Vantanea* is the low number of stamens diagnostic of the new species. Cuatrecasas, in his revision of the family (1961), characterized *Vantanea* (sole member of the Vantaneoideae) as having 50–180 stamens, among other attributes, but *V. depleta* rejoices in no more than 15–18. Nevertheless, since the new species has the bilocular anther thecae, biovulate ovary locules, and the drupe morphology typical of the genus, there can be little doubt that it is correctly placed in *Vantanea*.

Vantanea depleta McPherson, sp. nov. TYPE: Panama. Panamá: Cerro Jefe, 650 m, 2 May 1987, *McPherson & Stockwell 10892* (holotype, PMA; isotypes, F, MO). Figure 1.

Species floribus parvis (6 mm longis), petalis glabris, staminibus paucis (15–18), et ovario puberulo dignoscenda.

Tree 9–40 m; twigs often strongly angled, glabrous, marked by elongate lenticels. Leaf blades elliptic or elliptic-ovate, (5.5–)8.5–16 cm long, (3–)4–8 cm wide, entire, coriaceous; base acute, often somewhat reflexed abaxially, extending down the petiole as a pair of tapering wings; apex obtuse, not or only obscurely acuminate; midrib prominent on upper surface, somewhat raised on the lower surface; secondary veins (6–)7–9(–11), only slightly raised; both surfaces dull, glabrous, 1 or 2 small sunken laminar glands in most cases associated with each of the secondaries. Petiole somewhat poorly delimited from blade, 3–9 mm long, swollen

at the base, glabrous. Inflorescences terminal as well as sometimes also from the uppermost axils, broadly paniculate, the branches puberulent. Pedicels 1.5–3 mm, less puberulent than the rachises. Sepals semicircular, 1 mm long, 1.5–2 mm wide, obtuse, puberulent, mostly bearing one centrally placed raised crateriform gland. Petals narrowly triangular-ovate, slightly imbricate in bud, 5 mm long, 2 mm wide, glabrous on both surfaces, white. Stamens 15–18, the filaments 3–5 mm long, fused basally for ca. 1 mm, glabrous, white; anthers ca. 0.7 mm long, the thecae bilocular, about as long as the distal prolongation of the connective. Disk ca. 1 mm high, sharply dentate, glabrous. Ovary 2 mm long, densely puberulent, the hairs much shorter than the width of a filament; style 3 mm long, geniculate. Fruit 2.5–3.5 cm long, 1.5–1.7 cm diam., puberulent, rounded basally, acute distally; endocarp smooth, with 5 broad ribs alternating with 5 oblong valves, 2.4–3.3 cm long, 1.5–1.8 cm in diam.

Additional specimens examined. PANAMA. VERAGUAS: Cerro Tute, 1,200 m, *Lao & Gentry 530* (MO). CANAL AREA: Barro Colorado Island, *Garwood 440* (MO); Pipeline Road, *Gentry 1931, 7406* (MO). PANAMÁ: Cerro Jefe, 650 m, *McPherson 11008* (MO), *11296* (MO, PMA). SAN BLAS: between Río Irgandí and Río Cartí Senni, *de Nevers & Herrera 6597* (MO).

Vantanea depleta is known from central Panamanian forests from near sea level to 1,200 m.

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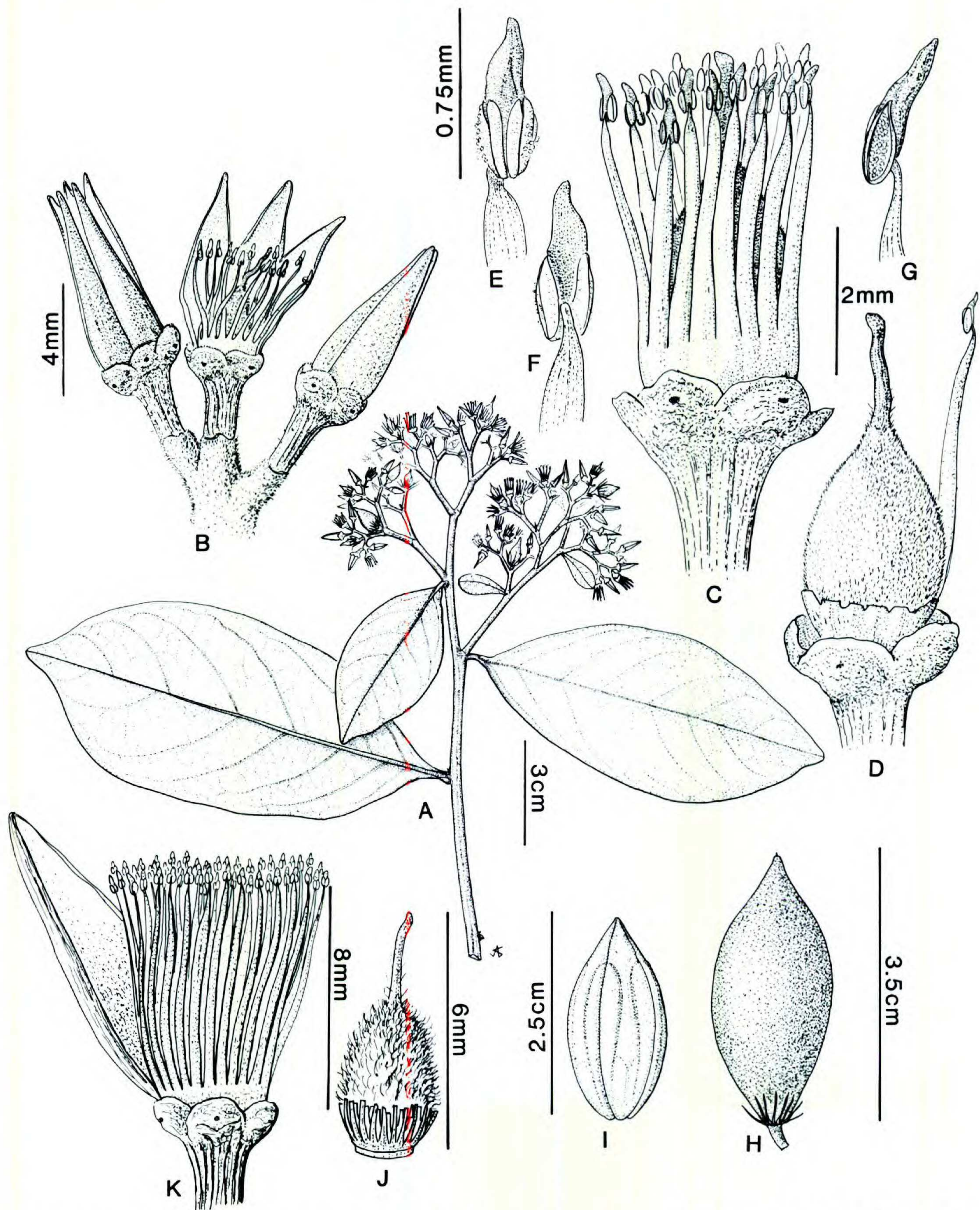


FIGURE 1. A–I. *Vantanea depleta* McPherson (A–G drawn from the type, McPherson & Stockwell 10892; H, I from McPherson 11296).—A. Twig.—B. Buds and opened flower.—C. Flower with corolla removed.—D. Gynoecium.—E–G. Stamens.—H. Drupe.—I. Endocarp. J, K. *V. occidentalis* Cuatrecasas (drawn from Gentry 24054).—J. Gynoecium.—K. Flower with four petals removed.